

Message Text

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S E C R E T USNATO 2364

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, NPG, NATO

SUBJECT: NPG: TIES STATUS REPORT

SUMMARY: WE COMMENT ON THE STATUS REPORT ON THEATER INFORMATION AND ENGAGEMENT SYSTEMS (TIES) AND RECOMMEND ITS APPROVAL AND INCLUSION ON THE OTTAWA NPG MINISTERIAL AGENDA. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY MAY 5. END SUMMARY.

1. AT THEIR MEETING IN LONDON, NPG MINISTERS INVITED PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO PREPARE A STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT AND PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS IN NATO'S THEATER INFORMATION AND ENGAGEMENT SYSTEMS (TIES). THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF DRAFTED SUCH A REPORT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE NMAS AND SOME NATIONS. SYG LUNS HAS CIRCULATED THE REPORT IN FINAL FORM UNDER PO/77/58, 18 APRIL 1977, POUCHED TO STATE AND DEFENSE ON 21 APRIL, REGISTRY NUMBER 4395. PERMREPS WILL CONSIDER THE TIES REPORT AT THEIR 5 MAY MEETING. WE BELIEVE THAT THE TIES REPORT IS SECRET

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ACCEPTABLE AS WRITTEN AND THAT SYG LUNS' PO IS AN ACCEPTABLE WAY TO FORWARD THE REPORT TO MINISTERS.

2. THE REPORT IS PRIMARILY A DESCRIPTION OF HARDWARE, AND SERVES AS A USEFUL COMPILATION OF NATO'S PRESENT AND PLANNED TIES CAPABILITIES. WHILE THE REPORT IS NON-CONTENTIOUS AND HAS VERY FEW POLICY IMPLICATIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE USEFUL TO INCLUDE IT ON THE MINISTERIAL AGENDA, BECAUSE IT RESPONDS TO A SPECIFIC MINISTERIAL TASKING AND

BECAUSE IT WILL PROVIDE A VEHICLE FOR FURTHER
REMARKS ON TIES BY MINISTERS IF THEY SO DESIRE.
HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE SHAPE NIKE HERCULES
STUDY AND THE SHAPE DUAL-CAPABLE AIRCRAFT STUDY WILL
DOMINATE MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF TNF IMPROVEMENT.

3. PROCEDURALLY, ANY PERMREP REPORTS ON THE SHAPE
STUDIES COULD MAKE MENTION OF THE TIES REPORT IF
ALLIES SO DESIRE, BUT WE SEE NO PARTICULAR NEED TO
DO SO. CONVERSELY, SOME ALLIES MIGHT WISH TO REMOVE
THE REPORT FROM THE AGENDA PENDING A MORE THOROUGH
DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SUBJECT. WE BELIEVE THAT
SUCH A COURSE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IF THERE WAS A STRONG
ALLIED DESIRE TO DO SO. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE
THAT THE US SHOULD INITIATE SUCH A PROPOSAL, SINCE THE
TIES STATUS REPORT ORIGINALLY WAS A US SUGGESTION.

4. NPG PERREPS WILL CONSIDER THE TIES STATUS
REPORT AND ITS COVERING PO AT THEIR MAY 5 MEETING.
WE RECOMMEND AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO
INCLUDE THE REPORT ON THE AGENDA FOR THE JUNE 1977
NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY OOB
MAY 5 REGARDING THE TIES STATUS REPORT AND ITS
INCLUSION ON THE MINISTERIAL AGENDA FOR OTTAWA.

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